The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news concerning all-labor interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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**LABOR'S GOAL!**
**To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law**

## LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By THOMAS E. DEWEY
Governor of the State of New York

*The following statement by Governor Dewey, Republican candidate for President of the United States, was issued in the form of a Labor Day proclamation. It was received by the AFL Weekly News Service too late for inclusion in our edition of August 27.*

I am once more proud to proclaim Labor Day to commemorate the good citizenship of the working men and women of our state and the contribution made by organized labor to the public welfare.

In a sense, the pride I feel today is original to the office of governor. It was in our state, 66 years ago, that the first Labor Day parade was held, a full 12 years before the holiday had federal recognition. It was in our state that American trade unionism was born, to develop from this cradle into a great national institution. And today, again, it is in our state that a living example of harmonious labor relations forecasts what can come into being for the entire nation.

In so far as we in New York have been able to manage our own affairs, we have achieved what is perhaps the best record of peace on a front where diverse interests must always be reconciled if free labor and free government are not to be submerged. As the nation's leading industrial state, New York's strike record is second to none. Where we have had trouble, the sources of it may be traced to lag roots which are fed in Albany or in Washington or in designs of selfish men ruthlessly pursuing power or wealth.

What we have achieved in New York is based on a simple formula. First, we have accorded labor the status and dignity it deserves in the community. Second, we have legislated on the theory that the most desirable practices in a free society are based on a minimum of coercion and a maximum of cooperation—and we have administered our laws fairly and impartially. Third, we have been ever mindful of the special protection which the working man and working woman needs from government—our workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, slum clearance and housing measures throughout the nation. And, fourth, we have kept the bread and butter problems of labor relations where they belonged, far removed in New York State.

We have been able to operate on this formula, and operate effectively, because the leaders and the rank-and-file of labor in this state have understood our purposes and responded with cooperation. Knowing them as I do, I would not have expected them to act otherwise. And I think that, given the opportunity, their fellow workers in mills and mines and factories across the country will respond in exactly the same way.

But, while other factors enter the equation for labor peace, this is labor's day, richly deserved and justly earned. Sanity, not strife, is the mature conduct, the cooperative spirit, and the sense of responsibility which our friends and neighbors in New York's wage earning and salaried groups have increasingly displayed. As the broad, strong base of the labor-management-government teamwork pyramid in New York State they play an historic role in being an object lesson to the nation.

*For Labor Day Editions:*

## Labor Praised For Help In Fight Against Polio

New York.—James J. Herkenham, Jr., Director of Labor Services for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, today lauded organized labor for the unstinting support it has always given the foundation in its relentless fight against this crippler.

Describing the services rendered by the foundation in the epidemic areas where polio has had unusually severe attacks this year, Mr. Herkenham said:

"In fighting the North Carolina epidemic alone, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has sent in $311,000 in emergency aid; has recruited nearly 400 doctors, nurses and physical therapists, and rushed 1,800 pieces of emergency medical and hospital equipment into the state.

"However," Mr. Herkenham added, "none of this could have been done, nor in which organized labor has supported the annual March of Dimes, the National Foundation and its chapters would have been hard pressed to render such service, of which it is justly proud.

"Organized labor has joined as one man before in supporting the March of Dimes for mutual protection against a truly dread disease. Not only is it helping to assist unfortunate victims of infantile paralysis to overcome them a chance to redeem their normal, happy childhood—but it is also helping to defeat the future when one of these victims may be released from programs financed by the people as a whole will have achieved the final conquest of the disease."

That labor appreciates the services rendered by the foundation is attested to by a letter written by C. A. Pyle, president of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, to Basil O'Connor, president of the foundation. Mr. Pyle, whose organization sponsored its annual convention because of the polio epidemic, wrote:

"I want you to know how appreciative the officers and members of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor are of the magnificent way in which the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is coping with the current outbreaks of polio in this state.

"I, and my associates, have been aware of the aid rendered polio patients through funds from the annual March of Dimes. But never before did we realize so fully the splendid work which is being made possible by our contributions to the appeal each winter."

The services to which Mr. Pyle referred include the payment of hospital costs, medical care and treatment for anyone requiring such aid; transportation to and from hospitals and clinics; nursing assistances when required, and regular medical examinations when needed.

Citing the high costs of such treatment and care, Mr. Herkenham said that few families, even those with substantial incomes, can meet the full bill. He added that although polio strikes a victim one member or one of his family, the local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis should be consulted immediately.

## Pay Rates for Skilled, Unskilled Work Show Less Differential, BLS Reports

Washington.—Percentage differences in rates of pay of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers have shown a distinct tendency to decline in the last few years, actual cents-per-hour differences have increased.

These facts were revealed in a study of occupational wage differentials by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. Details of the study are contained in the August issue of the Monthly Labor Review, official publication of BLS.

Occupational wage differentials are important in providing recognition of differences in skill, effort, and working conditions, and are essential in the article declares.

Currently, the wages of skilled workers are higher relatively than those of unskilled workers, on the average, by about 55 percent.

Although percentage differences have narrowed, a study of 17 manufacturing industries for the periods 1946-47 showed that actual cents-per-hour differentials between skilled and unskilled occupations increased from an average of 30 cents in the former period to 43 cents, currently.

Over the 40-year period from 1907 to 1947, the extent of the average differential between skilled and unskilled labor in manufacturing has been cut practically in half.

## BABY CAN KISS TOO, AND HOW!

## U. S. Report Shows Big Corporations Growing Fatter on High Price Policy

Washington.—While the average American worker and consumer dipped into his savings in his losing battle against inflation, business profits continued to soar to fantastic levels.

A joint report issued by the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission revealed that manufacturing corporations in the first quarter of 1948 had a net income after taxes of $2,900,000,000.

This staggering sum was $200,000,000, or 7.9 percent more than that for the first quarter of 1947 and $500,000,000, or 21.6 percent, higher than that for the last quarter of 1947, the report observed.

The reason advanced for the better profit showing punctured the traditional arguments given by business leaders every time they boost prices—rising costs. The Federal report declared that the increase in the first quarter of this year over the preceding quarter reflected a drop in costs and expenses which more than offset lower sales.

Total sales for the first 3 months of 1948 were estimated at $40,100,000,000, about $1,100,000,000 less than in the preceding quarter. Costs and expenses were $35,500,000,000, a drop of $1,600,000,000.

Figures in the report bore out the charge recently made by the Federal Trade Commission to the effect that big powerful corporations today are getting wealthier and more powerful all the time and constitute a monopolistic threat to our free economic system.

The report showed that the largest corporations, those with profit rates 50 percent or more than 1939 levels, enjoyed in the first half of 1948, the latter hand, the survey declared, those with profits fairly close to 1939 rates, both less than $250,000 in assets, showed lower rates of profit.

Total assets of all manufacturing corporations amounted to $100,605,000,000 at the end of March, 1948, while stockholders' equity was estimated at $62,200,000,000, an increase of $2,100,000,000 over the preceding quarter.

Of total assets, about $27,700,000,000 was in the form of inventories, an increase of $1,200,000,000 over the last quarter of 1947, while $53,905,000,000 represented net property, plant and equipment. The net working capital of all manufacturing corporations rose by $1,900,000,000 and amounted to $38,200,000,000 at the end of March.

For all manufacturing corporations the quarterly ratio of profits after taxes to stockholders' equity rose from 12.8 percent in the fourth quarter of last year to 4.2 percent in the first quarter of 1948.

Related to sales, profits after taxes rose from 5 percent in the fourth quarter of 1947 to 7.2 percent.

The comparable rates for the first quarter of 1947 are 4.2 percent on stockholders' equity and 7.5 percent on sales.

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS REMAIN AT $52.96 LEVEL

Washington.—Gross weekly earnings for nearly 12,000,000 production workers in manufacturing plants averaged $52.96 in mid-July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The July average was one penny higher than the mid-June figure. But the work-week dropped from 40.2 hours in June to 39.8 hours in July. Average hourly earnings in all manufacturing rose from $1.317 to $1.33.

In the durable goods lines, the average weekly earnings fell from $56.52 to $56.39. The work-week dropped from 40.7 hours to 40.1. This meant that average hourly earnings actually were higher—$1.404, compared to $1.385 in June.

In nondurable goods manufacturing, average weekly earnings rose from $49.19 to $49.36 over the July. The average work-week was shaved from 39.8 hours to 39.5. Average hourly earnings inched up from $1.235 to $1.25.

## AFL HOTEL WORKERS WIN PAY INCREASES

New York—Over 33,000 members of 8 AFL unions working in 170 hotels here were awarded pay increases ranging up to $4 a week by Edward F. Mulrooney, impartial chairman of the hotel industry.

Of the 33,000 employes half received increases of $3 weekly. Employes who receive tips found their base pay raised by $1.50 a week, while administrative employes, engineers, electricians and other mechanical and maintenance personnel received increases of $4 a week.

The hotel industry labor contract will not expire until 1950, but it contains provisions for annual reopening of the wage-and-hour clauses.

## GEORGE REELECTED HEAD OF AFL'S POSTAL CLERKS

Miami.—Leo E. George was reelected president of the AFL's National Federation of Post Office Clerks at the close of the organization's convention here.

Mr. George, who will serve for 2 years, defeated John W. Mackay of Los Angeles.

Three other national officers also were reelected. They are E. C. Hallbeck, national legislative representative; William Otto, secretary-treasurer, and John M. Torka, assistant secretary-treasurer.

## OFFICE EMPLOYES' UNION WINS IMPORTANT POLL

Galveston, Tex.—Climaxing a long uphill fight against stiff company opposition, the AFL's Office Employes International Union emerged victorious in an election to determine the bargaining agent for some 650 home office employes of the American National Insurance Co. here.

The union victory was the first to be recorded in any of the nation's major insurance firms. It came after a 10-year campaign against company opposition by the AFL union on all coasts.

The final vote in an election which saw the employes' challenge 46 of the ballots cast, was in favor of the union by a vote of 344 to 244.

The union's success was hailed by Jack Phillips, president of the AFL's OEIU, as a significant step in the AFL's campaign to organize the unorganized white collar workers in the United States.

## ITU LOCAL NEGOTIATES $13 WEEKLY PAY BOOST

Albany, N. Y.—Committees representing the Albany Typographical Union of 2 newspapers here agreed upon terms of a new contract providing for a $13 weekly pay increase.

The new contract calls for an $8 weekly pay hike retroactive to November 1, and an additional $5 weekly raise effective September 1.

The Albany Times-Union publishes a closed nor a union shop, but established machinery for negotiations by the union and the publishers to determine wages, hours and competitive room employes. It also has a no-strike clause.

## AFL on the Air

**Listen each week to "Summer Serenade" on the AFL's network radio show featuring an all-string orchestra under the direction of Glenn Osser and brief educational messages of interest to labor and the general public.**

**Time: Tuesday evenings at 10:45 p.m. EDT.**

**Network: American Broadcasting Co.**

**Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.**

## NBC TO AIR GREEN'S LABOR DAY ADDRESS

Washington.—The Labor Day address to be delivered by AFL President William Green at Memorial Beach Park, Akron, Ohio, will be re-broadcast over the nation-wide network of the National Broadcasting Co. Green's address from 7:30 to 7:45 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on Labor Day, September 6.

An early evening broadcast has been scheduled to permit Mr. Green's remarks to reach the thousands expected to jam the facilities of Akron Park, to be carried to additional millions of listeners from coast to coast. Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

## Number of Strikes Increases in July

Washington.—The number of work stoppages taking place under the Taft-Hartley law continued to increase, according to latest estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In July, the BLS said that 235 new stoppages commenced. This compares with 210 recorded for June and 315 reported in July of last year. It is way above the 1935-39 average of 258 stoppages.

Including disputes which continued into July from earlier months, a total of 1,000 disputes, involving some 300,000 workers, were in process during some part of the month.

The number of workers made idle by labor disputes also increased in July, the BLS reported. The total for the month of 225,000 was 60,000 above the number idle in June and over twice the average total for the years 1935-39.

Idleness at plants or establishments directly affected by work stoppages also rose slightly, the bureau said, totaling 2,200,000 man-days for July, as compared with an estimated 2,000,000 man-days in June.

All known work stoppages, arising out of labor-management disputes, involving 6 or more workers and continuing as long as a full day or shift, are included in reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Figures on "workers involved" and "man-days idle" cover all workers made idle in establishments directly involved in the stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or on workers whose employes are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

## Record of Congress Hit by Rep. Madden

Chicago.—Representative Ray J. Madden of Indiana charged that the special session of Congress, faced with the major crises of inflation and a housing shortage, dodged both issues and created a "skeleton anti-inflation measure" and a "skimmed-milk housing bill."

In a radio address delivered recently in Chicago over a nationwide network, the dean of Congress in point of the session clearly demonstrates that Republican control groups have more voice in Washington than the people back home."

Lashing out at the price control bill which received Republican votes in the nation's large corporations producing the bulk of our products, Representative Madden warned that these mammoth price regulators will do everything possible to defeat legislation which will curb prices." He added:

"If the American people have had enough of high prices, now is the time to get busy and rebuk. On Wednesday, November 2, the day after election, will be too late."

## AFL Council Assails New Housing Law; Says It Cannot Meet the Workers' Needs

Chicago.—The AFL Executive Council charged that the special session of the 80th Congress failed the nation when it enacted the 1948 Housing Act as a substitute for the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill.

A statement issued by the council at its mid-summer session here declared that the new law "cannot and will not result in any additional housing for the average worker and his family, or the average veteran and his family."

To meet the needs of the American people, the council statement said, the nation must have a housing program "which includes public housing, slum clearance, and rural housing—and none of which are provided in the new housing law.

The text of the council statement on housing follows:

"The 1948 Housing Act contains a number of aids to private builders and home-owners which may lead to additional housing for families in the upper and middle income brackets. It cannot and will not result in any additional housing for the average worker and his family, or the average veteran and his family.

"To meet the needs of the American people, a housing program which includes public housing, slum clearance, and rural housing must meet the needs of the American people.

"Congress failed to do this when it adopted the present inadequate housing law. The council deplores particularly condemns the refusal of the Senate Committee on Banking to permit the House of Representatives to vote on the effective Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill which had been adopted by the Senate.

"A survey made by the AFL discloses the acute housing shortages that still exist in this country, a problem which Congress has failed to meet. A summary of the survey's findings follows:

**Extent of Housing Shortage**

"(1) 20 percent of all urban families are either doubling up, living in overcrowded conditions, or in rooming houses, trailers, and camps.

"(2) In urban areas more than 5,000,000 dwelling units or dwellings are substandard.

"(3) Less than 1 percent of all houses are vacant—at least 4 percent is normal.

"(4) We need 10,000,000 more houses to meet the current shortage, a total of 15,000,000 before 1958.

**Current Housing Construction**

"(1) Only 960,000 houses are being built this year—most of them for sale at high prices. Most of these it cannot and will not result in any additional housing for the average worker and his family, or the average veteran and his family.

"(2) The average family can afford to pay $55 a month rent or buy a $6,000 house. Houses are now selling for $7,500 and up, and rents are now being asked are renting for $80 or more.

"(3) At least half of all non-residential construction is not essential to health and safety and is devoted to build new filling stations, store fronts, and amusement places that could be used in the construction of new homes."

## AFL Council Session Ends; Teamsters Upheld in Dispute

Chicago.—The AFL Executive Council backed the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in its dispute with the unaffiliated International Association of Machinists over AFL jurisdiction over warehousemen at the Seattle plant of the Boeing Airplane Company.

Winding up its summer session, the council agreed to join the AFL's International Longshoremen's Association in petitioning the Supreme Court for a rehearing of the so-called "overtime-on-overtime" case.

The council also backed the Teamsters in their contention that workers who brought the suit, in making it difficult to negotiate premium pay plans, are "impairing the rights of labor."

The council decided that owners and trainers of racing dogs did not fall into the category of farmers and exempt from the provisions for an AFL charter. Consideration is being given to an application for a charter from a group of dog racing workers and managers, William Green, AFL president, said was now in the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Plans for a new headquarters building in Washington were discussed, but decision on the matter was deferred. Green and the council members were deferred.

William Green, AFL president, announced that the council authorized a loan for Force Overiere, France's anti-Communist labor federation. The loan, amounting to $20,000, was approved.

The group will meet again in Cincinnati on November 13.

## Nonagricultural Employment Stays Up; Only 1,400,000 Above Last Year

Washington.—Employment in nonagricultural establishments showed little changed at 45,059,000 in mid-July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last December. This was the latest month for which figures are taking, some seasonal declines, and increases, in manufacturing industries were offset by seasonal gains in other industries.

Nonfarm employment was 1,400,000 above the year-ago figures.

Employment on contract construction declined as usual as cold weather sets in, bringing the total to 2,186,000, a new seasonal low, but still about 200,000 above last year's October peak.

The report indicates a high level, employment in a number of the construction material industries has also shown a substantial increase.

## AFL PAINTERS' UNION WINS 20-CENT PAY HIKE

Brooklyn.—Over 2,500 AFL painters employed by contractors will benefit as a result of a new agreement between the AFL's Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators and the Painting Contractors Association of Master Painters.

The new 1-year contract raises the painters' hourly rate from $2.30 to $2.50 for a basic 7-hour day. Under negotiations, the painters sought a 25-cent hourly increase and a 2 percent payroll levy for an old-age fund.

## UNION BULLETIN BOARDS PROVIDED ON SHIPS

New York.—The AFL's Seafarers International Union announced today for the first time it has been able to persuade 9 ship operating companies to provide bulletin boards and book racks for union literature aboard all ships which they operate.

The union's publication, "Seafarers Log," declared that the new development is "something no employer, maritime or shoreside, has agreed to before. To construct and place aboard ships facilities for union property and literature."

## ILGWU AFFILIATE REPORTS 85% REGISTERED VOTERS

Philadelphia.—Registration of union members has created defeat of the city's anti-labor candidates for Congress, Samuel Otto, manager of the Joint Board of Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Reefer and Dressmakers' Union and vice president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, declared today.

The prediction accompanied release of a report that 85 percent of members of the union's 12,000 members are registered voters.

While no effort was made to tabulate the registrants as Democrats or Republicans, Otto declared unofficially large number of members registered as Democrats in the union's current campaign against supporters of the Taft-Hartley law.

Otto also declared the union would intensify the drive in order to achieve 100 percent registration of its members. Thousands of circulars terming "registration and voting" a "bread-and-butter issue" for all unionists, are being distributed in the city's factories. More than a hundred street corner meetings with union leaders, Richardson Dilworth and other liberals" as speakers, will be held in workers' neighborhoods between now and election.

## AFL PRINTERS END STRIKE; GAIN NEW WAGE INCREASE

Philadelphia.—AFL printers here ended their strike of nearly 6 months and returned to work under terms of a contract providing a wage increase and improved conditions of employment.

At the outset of the dispute union officials said that the principal issue was an $80 weekly wage to replace the existing minimum of $69. The new contract provides an $80 scale for the 6 months and $82.50 for 17 months.

The contract provides two weeks' vacation for employes with at least 5 years of service beginning next summer. Union security provisions, it was announced, were worked out this week at conferences between the employers' representatives and international officers of the ITU.

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